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Giorgio et al.

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[54] **NETWORK FILE SERVER WITH
AUTOMATIC SENSING MEANS**

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395/825; 364/DIG. 1; 364/283; 364/265;
364/243; 364/242.95**

[58] Field of Search **395/200, 800,
395/275, 375, 250, 425, 725, 500, 700,
650, 325**

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[57] ABSTRACT

An SCSI controller adapted as a network file server provides a virtual connection between a plurality of host processors and a single SCSI initiator. The controller contains a removable host adapter for connection to any type of network interface. When a host processor issues a command packet and requests status information of a target device, that status information is passed to the requesting processor and subsequently stored in the controller and made available to all other host processors on the network. A fault tolerant performance monitoring algorithm, executing within the controller, is scheduled to non-intrusively and periodically check the status of each SCSI target device and to store that status information for all host processors. The advantage to such a controller is the expanded number of host processor connections to a single SCSI initiator whereby each host processor can independently and logically connect through the controller and SCSI initiator to a target without clearing target status information for other host processors.

7 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

